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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application

Confirmation No. 5549

Keitaro YONEZAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3723

Serial Number: 10/575,904

Examiner: Robert C. Watson

Filed: April 14, 2006

Attorney Docket: YONE3024/JEK

For: CLAMPING APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2007 regarding the above identified application. The examiner has imposed the requirement that Applicant elect a single species of patentably distinct subject matter described in this application to which the claims will be restricted if a generic claim encompassing all species is ultimately found not to be allowable. Currently, the examiner does not believe that any of the claims are generic.

Election

Applicant elects without traverse the species of Figures 1-9 to which claims 1-3, 7-11 and 17-19 are directed.